

In the Claims

For the convenience of the Examiner, all pending claims are set forth below, whether or not an amendment is made. Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for amending information in a database system, the method comprising:

determining whether an instruction or operation adds an information entry to or removes the information entry from a database system, wherein for an add entry operation, the information entry is first added to an 'out' table, and wherein for a remove entry operation, the information entry is first removed from an 'in' ~~table; table, the 'out' table being non-visible to a search of the 'in' table; and~~

employing the instruction or operation to amend the information entry in the database system; and

preventing the amended information entry from being searchable until at least the 'in' table includes the amended information entry.

2. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the information entry is added to the 'in' table after being added to the 'out' table.

3. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the information entry is removed from the 'out' table after being removed from the 'in' table.

4. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising performing one entry operation of the plurality of add and remove entry operations if the instruction or operation is determined to be part of the modify entry instruction.

5. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the instructions are implemented via a directory system such as X.500 or LDAP.

Claims 6-10 (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) A system for amending information in a database system, the system including:

a database using a plurality of tables, each table having a plurality of rows and columns, and storing arbitrary data;

means for processing an instruction or operation by determining whether the instruction or operation adds an information entry or removes the information entry from a relational database, wherein for an add entry operation, the information entry is first added to the 'out' table, and wherein for a remove entry operation, the information entry is first removed from the 'in' ~~table; table, the 'out' table being non-visible to a search of the 'in' table; and~~

means for employing the instruction or operation to amend the information entry of a database system; ~~and~~

means for preventing the amended information entry from being searchable until at least the 'in' table includes the amended information entry.

12. (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in claim 11 being a directory services system such as X.500 or LDAP.

Claims 13 - 14 (Cancelled)

15. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising using the 'out' table to retrieve a result of the search of the 'in' table.

16. (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in claim 11, further including means for using the 'out' table to retrieve a result of the search of the 'in' table.

Please add the following new claims:

17. (New) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein preventing the amended information entry from being searchable until at least the 'in' table includes the amended information entry comprises always preventing the amended information entry from being searchable until at least the 'in' table includes the amended information entry.

18. (New) The system as claimed in claim 11, wherein the means for preventing the amended information entry from being searchable until at least the 'in' table includes the amended information entry comprises means for always preventing the amended information entry from being searchable until at least the 'in' table includes the amended information entry.

19. (New) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein only the amended information entry is prevented from being searchable until at least the 'in' table includes the amended information entry.

20. (New) The system as claimed in claim 11, wherein only the amended information entry is prevented from being searchable until at least the 'in' table includes the amended information entry.

21. (New) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein preventing the amended information entry from being searchable until at least the 'in' table includes the amended information entry comprises making the amended information entry non-visible until at least the 'in' table includes the amended information entry.

22. (New) The system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the means for preventing the amended information entry from being searchable until at least the 'in' table includes the amended information entry comprises means for making the amended information entry non-visible until at least the 'in' table includes the amended information entry.